

d.) Remarks

Claims 1-19, 21-24, and 32-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 35 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. Please cancel claims 20, 25, 26, and 28-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Turning now to the Office Action, a number of issues were noted relative to the drawings. In response to the objection, Applicants have made a number of amendments to the specification and submitted a new Fig. 5.

In the new Fig.5, one of the reference numerals 122 has been removed. Further, one of the reference numerals 146 has been changed to 147.

Now turning to the specific comments, issues concerning reference numerals 122 and 146 were noted relative to "Fig. 2." Applicants believe that the comments should have been relative to Fig. 5, where the noted issues with respect to reference numerals 122 and 146 have been corrected in the new drawing. Corresponding changes have been made in the specification.

Relative to Fig. 10, Applicants believe that reference number 126 in Fig. 10 should be properly be "126". The discussion of Fig. 10 does not appear to discuss numeral "106". The Examiner noted two reference numerals "200" in Fig. 12B. Applicants were not able to find the "second" reference numeral 200.

Finally, the drawings were objected to for the use of reference numerals 152 and 158 throughout the specification. Generally, reference character 152 refers to a powertap. Reference numeral 158 refers to a combiner. An issue was discovered relative to these reference numerals in the discussion of Fig. 10. Specifically, the powertap was incorrectly referred to with reference numeral 158. This has been corrected in the amendments to the specification.

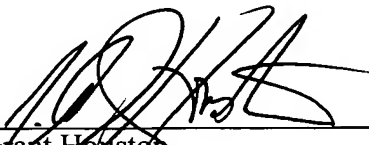
Concerning the objections to the specification, page 8 has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. Reference numeral 10 has been corrected to 20 in the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 7 as recommended by the Examiner.

Applicants thank Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to Claims 7, 8, 20-24, and 33-35. In order to avoid the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Claims 7, 24, and 35 have been rewritten in an independent format.

Please note that amended claim 1 is slightly broader than original, allowed claim 20. Intervening claim 15 required a broadband source for generating broadband light. Claim 1 refers to generating light over a broadband, to cover laser configurations. This should not affect allowability based on the Examiner's statement.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons of record. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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c.) Amendments to Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes only Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet 7.